Claims

1. A patch comprising a first layer which is adhesive and a second layer comprising a material adjacent to the first layer characterised in that at least one of the first or second layers is opaque to a UV radiation.

2. A patch according to Claim 1, wherein the second layer is opaque to a UV radiation.

3. A patch according to Claims 1 or 2, wherein the UV radiation is selected from the group consisting of (320-400nm), UVB (280-320 nm) and UVC (200-280 nm) radiation.

4. A patch according to any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the patch has a UV protection factor (UPF) greater or equal to 40.

5. A patch according to any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the patch has a UV protection factor (UPF) in the range of from 15 to 40.

6. A patch according to any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein at least one layer comprises a modification which results in the layer being opaque to UV radiation, wherein the modification is chemical or physical .

7. A patch according to Claim 6, wherein the chemical modification comprises the addition of UV radiation blocking agents.

8. A patch according to Claim 7, wherein the second layer comprises the UV radiation blocking agents.

9. A patch according to Claims 7 or 8, wherein the UV radiation blocking agents is incorporated into a layer.

10. A patch according to Claim 9, wherein the incorporation is with interstitial spaces within a layer.

11. A patch according to Claims 7 or 8, wherein the UV radiation blocking agents is attached to a surface of a layer

12. A patch according to any of Claims 7 to 11, wherein the UV radiation blocking agents act as a result of deflecting and/or reflecting and/or absorbing and/or scattering the UV radiation.

13. A patch according to any of Claims 7-12, wherein the UV radiation blocking agents are selected from the group consisting of; inorganic, organic or metallic agents.

14. A patch according Claim 13, wherein the metallic agent is a zinc salt.

15. A patch according to Claim 14, wherein the zinc salt is zinc sulphide or zinc oxide.

16. A patch according to Claim 7, wherein the physical modification is a result of calendaring.

17. A patch according any of Claims 1 to 16, wherein the adhesive is provided at a peripheral edge of the patch.

18. A patch according to Claim 17, wherein the adhesive is provided with a releasable protective layer.

19. A patch according to any of Claims 1 to 18, wherein the second layer substantially overlies said first layer.

20. A patch according to any of Claims 1 to 19, wherein the material comprises a substantially single thickness fabric.

21. A patch according to Claim 20, wherein the material comprises a section of tape or film.

22. A patch according to any of Claims 1 to 19, wherein the material comprises a gel.

23. A patch according to any of Claims 1 to 22, wherein said patch is substantially circular.

24. A patch according to any of claims 1 to 23, wherein said patch is substantially waterproof.

25. A patch according to any of claims 1 to 24, wherein said patch is substantially transparent to visible light.

26. The use of a patch according to any of Claims 1 to 25 as a preventive agent against the development of melanoma.

27. A method of manufacturing a patch wherein said patch comprises a first layer which is adhesive and a second layer adjacent to the first layer characterised in that at least one of the first or second layers is opaque to UV radiation comprising the steps of;

i) providing a first and second layer wherein at least one of the layers is opaque to UV radiation or capable or being rendered opaque to UV radiation;

ii) bringing into contact the layers in (i).

28. A method according to Claim 27, wherein the second layer is a single thickness fabric.

29. A method according to Claim 28, wherein the single thickness fabric is a section of tape or film.

30. A method according to Claim 27, wherein the second layer is a gel.

31. A method according to any of Claims 27 to 30, wherein a releasable protective layer is applied to the adhesive.

32. A method according to any of Claims 27 to 31, wherein the opaqueness is a result of a modification of at least one layer, the modification being either a chemical or physical modification.

33. A method according to Claim 32, wherein the chemical modification comprises UV radiation blocking agents.

34. A method according to Claim 32, wherein the physical modification is as a result of calandering.

35. A method of reducing skin exposure to UV radiation comprising the steps of;

i) providing a patch comprising a first layer which is adhesive and a second layer adjacent to the first layer wherein at least one of said first or second layers is opaque to UV radiation;

ii) applying the patch to the skin with the adhesive layer contacting the skin.

36. A method of preventing skin cancer as a result of exposure to UV radiation comprising the steps if;

i) providing a patch comprising a first layer which is adhesive and a second layer adjacent to the first layer wherein at least one of the first or second layers is opaque to UV radiation;

ii) applying the patch to the skin with the adhesive layer contacting the skin.

37. A method of preventing skin cancer according to Claim 36, wherein the skin cancer is selected from the group consisting of basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, malignant melanoma.

38. A method according to Claim 35 or 36, wherein said patch is applied directly to at least one mole.

39. A kit comprising a plurality of patches of varying shapes and/or sizes according to any of Claims 1 to 25.